

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 6, 2015

Agenda Item: Contractual Elk Hunting Access Agreement – Lee Ranch (New)

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Under the provisions of 87-2-513 MCA, FWP received the authority to issue either-sex or antlerless elk permits to landowners for management purposes. The landowner must offer free public elk hunting, meet the various conditions of the statute, and enter a contractual public elk hunting access agreement with FWP.

The contract defines the areas open to public elk hunting, the number of elk hunting days that will be allowed on the property, and other factors that FWP and the landowner consider necessary for the proper management of elk on the landowner's property.

This is a new HB454 agreement. The Robert Lee Ranch Hunting Access Agreement specifically states that in return for allowing access to elk hunters on 5,400 acres of land, Mr. Lee, or a family member, would receive one 411-21 either-sex permit. In turn, FWP would issue four additional 411-21 permits from the already randomized list of unsuccessful applicants for that license permit type (LPT). Successful applicants and the designated member of the Lee family could only hunt on the Lee Ranch deeded property considered in this agreement.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period will be limited to the time allotted by the Commission at the Aug. 6 meeting, where final action will be taken.

Alternatives and Analysis

Failure to approve this agreement may result in reduced public elk hunting access in this area.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the Commission approve the proposed Robert Lee Hunting Access Agreement. Access is a critical component of elk management.

Proposed Motion

I move the F&W Commission adopt as final the proposed Robert Lee Ranch hunting access agreement as presented by FWP.